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Saturday, October 6, 2012

THE SOURCE for local news in English Cava G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.



Revolutionary policy by ELMAR announced at the Green Aruba Conference

Furthering the policy of reducing Aruba's carbon footprint and propelling the island towards oil independence, was a new policy announced by ELMAR Director Roberto Henriquez, on the opening day of the 3rd Green Aruba Conference.

Aruba's government has already implemented important legislation, drastically reducing the cost of importing technology which enables homeowners to harness wind and solar energy. ELMAR has been installing meters to the homes which have done

past elections, but Capriles has surged in opinion polls

after an energetic door-to-door campaign across the country.

urged his supporters not to

declare victory too early and

to turn out to vote en masse

on Sunday. He also charges

that the "far right" plans not

who was operated twice for

chemotherapy in the past two

years, stepped up his cam-

paign this week with giant

The 58-year-old leader,

underwent

to recognize his victory.

and

While he remains the odds-on favorite, Chavez has



Aruba's PM Eman, Mr. Henriquez and Minister de Meza signing the agreement

energy."

so, allowing them to feed back energy into the grid.

Robert Henriquez announced that as of this month, ELMAR will offer incentives for homes to produce their own green energy by paying for what is fed back into the ELMAR grid. The DG Interconnection Agreement & Policy was signed before the conference on Wednesday, October 3, by Mr. Henriquez, Mike de Meza, Minister of Finance, Utilities, Communication and Energy and Aruba's Prime Minister, Mike Eman.

Past ÉLMAR policy made no allowance, even hindered, green energy instillations. Prior to the agreement they had offered no surplus rollover or metering. Their new company philosophy is to "offset or zero out consumption with additional incentive in case of surplus

Highlights of the new policy are: 10kw allotted for private residences and 100kw for businesses. There will be a grid usage fee per installed KW, and surplus energy will generate earnings. There is a fixed charge of 15 Arubian florin per month per installed capacity, deemed necessary to install stabilizing equipment to guarantee the integrity of the grid. Homes will be exempt for the first 3kw. As of November, the surplus tariff will be 0.332kwh per residence and 0.252kwh per non-residential

All parties involved are very pleased to implement this complete reversal of former ELMAR policy, thus encouraging islanders to get involved on the consumer level.

By Rosalie Klein

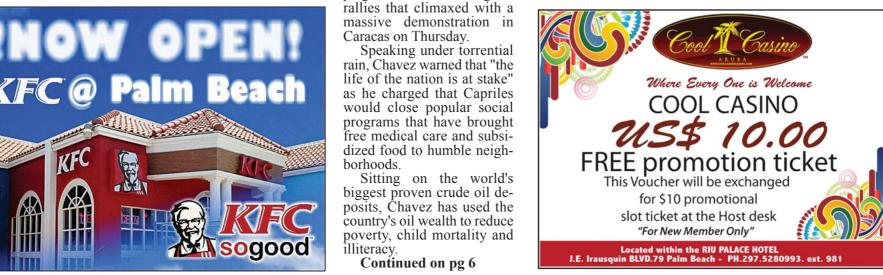
Chavez faces his toughest election challenge



Chavez (L), Capriles (R)

CARACA (AFP) - After almost 14 years in power, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez seeks a new six-year term on Sunday, but he faces his toughest challenge yet from youthful opposition rival Henrique Capriles.

The leftist leader retains a loyal following among the country's poor, who have propelled him to easy victories in





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THE VILLAGE PLAZA

Aruba's Fire Department Fire Prevention Week activities begin this weekend





Aruba's Brandweer, our Fire Department, has again scheduled a full week of events to impress upon the public the importance of their work, and vigilance in preventing fires at home or business.

The firemen will enjoy a number festive events for them and their families, but public events will begin this Sunday with an Open House at the Tanki Flip Fire Station. The Open House has always been an exciting and entertaining event. There will be lots of fun activities for all ages, as well as informative displays

and lectures. This year will include the "Bomberito Chal-

lenge," for kids aspiring to be firemen. Food booths, dino jump, face painting and balloon art will all keep the little ones happy, while parents can get a free check-up in the IBISA Health Bus. Open House begins at 10:00 AM and will continue until 6:00

week of intra-Brandweer sporting competitions will end with the 29th annual Brandweer 10K Run/Walk on Sunday, October 14. All runners and walkers are invited to participate. Registration began on Monday, October 1 is open through Saturday, October 13. Interested parties can register at the Tanki Flip station from 9:00a.m. until 4:00 p.m. or IBISA, former IDEFRE headquarters in Certified Mega Mall.

The route will be from the Tanki Flip Fire Station through Ponton, Santa Helena and Hato to finish back at the fire station. One turn will be a 5K run/walk, those competing in the 10K category will do two laps of the circuit.

Registration free for the 5K is 10 Arubian florins (\$5.50) and for the 10K is 15 florins, (\$8.25.)

Trophies for the 10K run will be awarded in several age categories for both women and men for ages under 20 to 60 plus. 10K walk trophies will be award for the top three finishing places in both categories. 5K runner and walker trophies will be awarded only to participants under the age of 17 who finish in the top three spots. Entrants will be eligible for door prizes sponsored by the Westin Aruba Resort.

For more information on the Brandweer run/walk, call 582-4987.

Rosalie Klein

Government extends taxi moratorium and Taxi pension is on the drawing board



Last Thursday the Minister of Transport met with the taxi cooperative to discuss different issues of common interest. In this meeting they came up with some concrete decisions regarding the situation of our local taxis.

There were three items on the agenda: the first was the verdict of the Judge regarding the taxis and their access to the airport. Secondly, they discussed the matter of pensions for taxi chauffeurs upon their retirement. After some lengthy discussions with the taxis over a number of months, and consultations with different companies in search of an acceptable proposition, they have begun final deliberations.

There are currently about 80 taxi chauffeurs of the 400 who are above 65 years of age. This is a significant amount which reflects the need for a pension plan. The moment these drivers stop working they have nothing.

The government decided to install a commission officially by Tuesday next week whose task will be to work on the details and for a pension plan, Following that work, the plan will be taken to a session with the Council of Ministers for discussion and to determine what or how the government's participation will be in the program.

The third point was the amount of taxi permits on Aruba. As we can recall, the government had a special report written on public transportation. That report indicated that, at this time, the need for taxis could increase to 5% per year. However, the government has decided to maintain the taxi moratorium for at least 2 more years.

One point, not on the agenda, but nonetheless brought into discussion was the matter of assistant chauffeurs. Taxi chauffeurs are of the opinion that this situation is being used to make money, it is being treated as a business very similar to permits that were being sold for large sums of money. The use of an assistant chauffeur must be limited to those times of illness or other serious situations where an assistant chauffeur is needed. Currently it is possible to get a permit for an assistant chauffeur for 9 months or maximum 12 months.

Sunday Balloon Raffle \$500,- Slot Tournament \$1000 Monday Balloon Raffle \$500.- Earn DOUBLE POINTS all day Tuesday Balloon Raffle \$500,- Black Jack Tournament \$500

Wednesday Balloon Raffle \$500,- Cool Casino - LADIES NIGHT Thursday Cash Raffle Awg 10.000,-

Friday Balloon Raffle \$500,- Black Jack Tournament \$500 28th \$1000 Saturday Balloon Raffle \$500,- Earn Triple POINTS all day 10 am-6 pm



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J Balvin danced the night away with his hits, and Gyptian swept the lovely crowd off their feet.

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A big shout out to all our local prides who set the party mood from early on and raised everybody's excitement.

The Flipbook corner, graf-



fiti station, body art & our pretty promo girls kept you entertained all night long.

And last but certainly not least, YOU, the best crowd ever! Thank you for making Green Village 2012 an unforgettable experience!

Be pending for the after movie, and we will see you next year for the next BIG surprise...

Your Village, Your Heineken!

Donkey Sanctuary unveils their 2013 Calendar



Desiree Eldering, Alex Neuiwmeyer and Well Done

Fusion Wine & Piano Bar in the Alhambra Shopping Bazaar had some unusual customers on Thursday evening. Divi Properties General Manager Alex Nieuwmeyer had no objection to sharing a social evening with Well Done, a four-month -old recent addition to the population of Aruba Donkey Sanctuary, along with Bam Bam, who eighteen years ago was also rescued after being aban-

doned by its mother. Both of the unique patrons attracted quite some attention, but were perfectly behaved.

Aruba Donkey Sanctuary established their refuse in Santa Lucia to preserve the island's donkey population.

Originally well over a thousand donkeys roamed the landscape; it dwindled to less than 50 when the sanctuary began their rescue operation.

Nieuwmeyer welcomed Foundation President Desiree Eldering for a stylish launch of the calendar, an appealing collection of photographs of the amusing antics of the denizens of the sanctuary. This year, the calendar pays tribute to the particularly active volunteers whom Desiree credits with its continuing success. Solmaita, Etienne, Esther, Roos, Linda, Xander, Dirk, Anneke, Ilonka, Micheline,

Marjo, Jo Anne, D'Angelo, Angelique and Maritza are showcased along with their favorite jack or jenny.

"Giving help to animals which formed a basis of island life for hundreds of years certainly has its own rewards," stated Desiree. "But it also makes many demands...This is to thank them for all their efforts and to acknowledge some of the pleasant hours we get to spend together.

The very attractive calendar, which would make a wonderful memento of Aruba, is at sale at the Donkey Sanctuary and island bookstores newsstands. It cost 25 Arubian florins (\$14.50) To inquire about the sanctuary or helping out by purchasing one of their many attractive souvenirs, or a calendar, call 584-7063, or 593-2933. These numbers can also be used to report a donkey in distress or a pregnant jenny. The sanctuary will leave healthy

donkeys in the wild, but will assist in births or treating the sick or malnourished. To learn more about Aruba's Donkey Sanctuary and their work, visit their website: www.arubadonkey.org

By Rosalie Klein



Special 35th Anniversary 3-Course Menu

Appetizer
Our Best Selling Sautéed Conch Or Traditional Argentinean Grilled Chorizo y Morcilla

Entreé

Argentina's most popular cut, the Skirt Steak Or Mixta del Mar a sampler of our signature seafood dishes, on the menu since 1977! Grouper Fillet, Garlic Shrimp & Calamari Buenos Aires

Dessert

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Aruba Lions Club 'Open House" is this Sunday!



Tomorrow, October 7th anyone interested in purchasing tickets or who simply wants to admire the house under construction in Aruba Lions Club house raffle can drop in. The house is located in the Monte Verde Residence complex in Sero Biento (Santa Cruz). The "open house" hours are from 10 o'clock in the morning until 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Members of the Lions Club will be there to welcome you with tickets for sale, and to give you a guided tour of the house.

This is Aruba Lions Club's

56th house raffle as part of their annual fundraising program. And, this is the second time that they have chosen to raffle a Monte Verde house at Sero Biento. The house is being built according to the Flor di Jasmijn model, and is 101M2 big with 3 bedrooms and two baths installed by Banjolux. The kitchen is a modern Italian style completely installed by Berloni, and there is also a wash room. The windows are made of double glass and the roof is the "panchi" tiled type roof. The house is built on a

lot measuring more or less 400M2 and has a market value of more or less 242 thousand Florins. This is a very modern and ideal house for any family.

The raffle is scheduled to take place on the 2nd of November. Apparently, the demand for tickets is very high this year compared to previous years and they anticipate that tickets will be sold out

Each raffle costs Afls.25 and affords the ticket holder the opportunity to win a brand new house while contributing to an excellent cause. Through this means Aruba Lions can continue contributing to the needs of others in our community.

Aruba Lions Club is part of a world-wide membership of over 1.4 million in more than 46 thousand clubs in 205 countries and geographic areas. Annually they invest millions of dollars in charitable initiatives around the world.

Venezuela ballot secrecy not a concern: Carter Center

WASHINGTON (AFP) Venezuelans have no reason to fear the secrecy of their ballots will be compromised by a new electronic voting system when they go to the polls Sunday in presidential elections, the Carter Center said Friday.

President Hugo Chavez faces off against opposition Henrique candidate Capriles in Sunday's election, viewed as the toughest challenge to the incumbent since he came to power 14 years ago.

The Atlanta, Georgiabased Carter Center noted that many Venezuelans are concerned that a new electronic voting system might enable authorities to tell how they voted, exposing them to retaliation if they vote against Chavez.

"This concern has no basis, however," the center said. "The software of the voting machines guarantees the secrecy of the vote."

While approving of the electronic voting system, the report took note of laws that allows the government to run free "government in-stitutional ads" that closely resemble campaign ads for up to 10 minutes per station and per day.

"The National Electoral Council (CNE) has not defined government ads that defend official government policy as campaign public-

ity," the report said.
"Meanwhile, the CNE has defined oppositionsponsored criticism of govpolicy ernment equivalent to campaign publicity, and also banned some opposition-sponsored ads that criticize governmental policy.'

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TV series "Biba Sin Cancer" promises to be effective

During a recent press conference, the White Yellow Cross announced their educational television program called, "Biba Sin Cancer" (living without cancer), which will be a series of 13 programs. The goal of the 13 episodes will be to educate the community concerning cancer and how to live free of cancer. This they see as the first step in helping us achieve a healthy community. We have the tendency to associate cancer with death, while this should not be the case since

if caught early enough much can be done.

Cancer in the public health platform of Aruba is the second most common disease on Aruba, the first being cardiovascular diseases.

The government expressed appreciation and gratitude for the tremendous work being done by the White Yellow Cross and for the tremendous support received from the Aruba Way Foundation for this particular series of programs.

Prevention is the best

medicine, hence we need to eat healthier and become more physically active. The recent PAHO conference also stressed the importance of physical exercise which helps to ward off cancer by 40% along with good nutrition.

Currently, the only treatment for cancer available on Aruba is chemotherapy. For radiotherapy, patients must travel to Curacao, Holland or Colombia. Treatment outside of Aruba normally lasts more or less 2 months. This is the reason why Aruba is working diligently on a hospital project for IMSAN. This is a big project for Aruba which will benefit our entire region. The project is being conducted with the collaboration of Baptist Health South Florida Hospital and is designed to give Aruba her own cancer hospital.

What is essential right now is to work on prevention and awareness. The White Yellow Cross, IBISA, foundations such as Wilhelmina Kankerfonds, Mary Joan Foundation and Edmund Harms, among others, are uniting efforts to work on awareness and prevention programs.

In the TV series, the White Yellow Cross will illustrate how the lives of people with cancer are, what must be done to improve our health and to help us become better equipped to manage this disease if we are confronted with it, or how to prevent getting the disease in the first place.

The program wil be aired on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 on TeleAruba.



After jobs boost, Obama says America must not turn back



President Barack Obama speaks at a campaign event at George Mason University

Fairfax, Virginia (AFP) - President Barack Obama hailed Friday a shock tumble in the jobless rate to its lowest level since he took office as proof that America cannot afford to turn back to Republican economics.

The Democrat seized on the data, just one month before election day, in a bid to regain the initiative after a listless debate showing let Republican Mitt Romney back into a race that had seemed to be slipping away from him.

Romney responded to the drop in the unemployment rate to 7.8 percent, which could stifle his hopes of a polling boost after the debate, by complaining that the figures did not represent a "real recovery."

But Obama argued he finally has the economy on the right track, despite a sluggish recovery from the worst recession since the 1930s.

"Today, I believe that as a nation we are moving forward again," Obama said at a rowdy rally at a university in swing state Virginia.

"After losing about 800,000 jobs a month when I took office, our businesses have now added 5.2 million new jobs over the past two and a half years."

Obama also took a swipe at Romney.

"Today's news certainly is not an excuse to try to talk down the economy to score a few political points. It is a reminder that this country has come too far to turn back now," he declared.

"We have made too much progress to return to the policies that led to the crisis in the first place. I can't allow that to happen. I won't allow that to happen."

Obama also intensified his assault on positions Romney took in the debate in Denver on Wednesday, accusing him of ditching conservative stances he took to win the Republican nomination in a bid to woo more moderate voters.

Romney, who was also campaigning in Virginia, declared the jobless figures, which could dampen any polling boost he wins from a strong debate performance on Wednesday night, did not reflect economic reality.

"If not for all the people who have simply dropped out of the labor force, the real unemployment rate would be closer to 11 percent," said Romney.

While unemployment tracked down three tenths of a percentage point, only

114,000 jobs were created in September, despite upward revisions to July and August data, and manufacturers cut jobs for the second straight month.

But the economic context is almost certain to be lost in the political free-for-all a month before election day, and the data may back Obama's claim the economy is heading in the right direction and undercut Romney's critiques.

Obama leads in most national polls and more crucially in the 10 or so swing states that will decide the election, but the Republican candidate is expected to close the gap on the strength of his rampant debate showing in Denver.

Rihanna, Shakira warned over Azerbaijan concerts

BAKU (AFP) - Campaigners on Friday warned popstars Rihanna and Shakira that their concerts in Azerbaijan this month would be held against a backdrop of alleged human rights violations and crackdowns on free speech.

The two singers are to appear in Baku this month at concerts staged around the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup football tournament which is currently being held in the oil-rich ex-Soviet state.

Amnesty International said it had sent a letter to the singers informing them about the "multiple arrests and persecution of journalists, bloggers and political activists" in Azerbaijan.

"Amnesty International

"Amnesty International believes that the Azerbaijani government should afford all artists, journalists, activists and ordinary citizens the right to express themselves freely without fear of reprisal," the rights group said in the letter.

Chavez faces his toughest election challenge Continued from pg 1

But he also admitted making mistakes and vowed to "become a better president" if he wins re-election. The constitution was amended in 2009 to allow the president to seek multiple terms in office.

Capriles has hammered Chavez over the country's regular power outages, food shortages and runaway murder rate, which has risen to 50 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants.

The socialist president has also rankled the private sector by nationalizing a slew of companies in the oil, electricity and bank sectors as part of his "Bolivarian revolution."

Capriles, a 40-year-old former Miranda state governor, has vowed to unite the country, accusing Chavez of being "sick with power" and dividing the country.

Chavez held a 10-point lead in the latest survey, but Capriles has climbed in opinion polls and attracted hundreds of thousands of people at his own Caracas rally last Sunday.

Capriles, who describes himself as the biblical David fighting Goliath, was picked by the opposition in an unprecedented primary election in February.

Around 19 million voters are called to vote in Sunday's election. Some 140,000 troops have been deployed to prevent violence while alcohol sales are banned until Monday. A South American observer mission says the conditions are set for a transparent election.

While the opposition is better organized this time around, Chavez can count on a well-oiled campaign operation, with supporters waking up voters with bugles on the morning of elections and bikers taking slum residents to polling booths.

Capriles is considered a more business-friendly candidate but he has tried to woo Chavez's base by presenting himself as a center-left politician who would continue the president's social "missions."

Chavez accuses his rival of representing an "unpatriotic" upper class.

"(Capriles) is telling pure lies," Cevallo Osto, a 21-year-old student, said as he waved a Venezuelan flag during the president's Caracas rally on Thursday. "If Chavez goes, the Venezuelan revolution is over."



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DinnerMonday - Sunday

6:00 - 11:00 p.m

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International News

Warplanes batter Syria's Homs as **Turkey returns** fire

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Warplanes pounded rebel-held areas of Homs in the Syrian city's heaviest onslaught for months on Friday, monitors said, as Turkey reportedly returned cross-border shellfire for the second time this week.

The clashes came as the UN condemned the Syrian army's deadly shelling of a Turkish border town on Wednesday, and "terrorist" car bombs that killed almost 50 people in the war-torn country's second city Aleppo on the same day.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the bombardment of Khaldiyeh district was the most intense of Homs in five months, and the first time the regime has deployed fighter jets against the city.

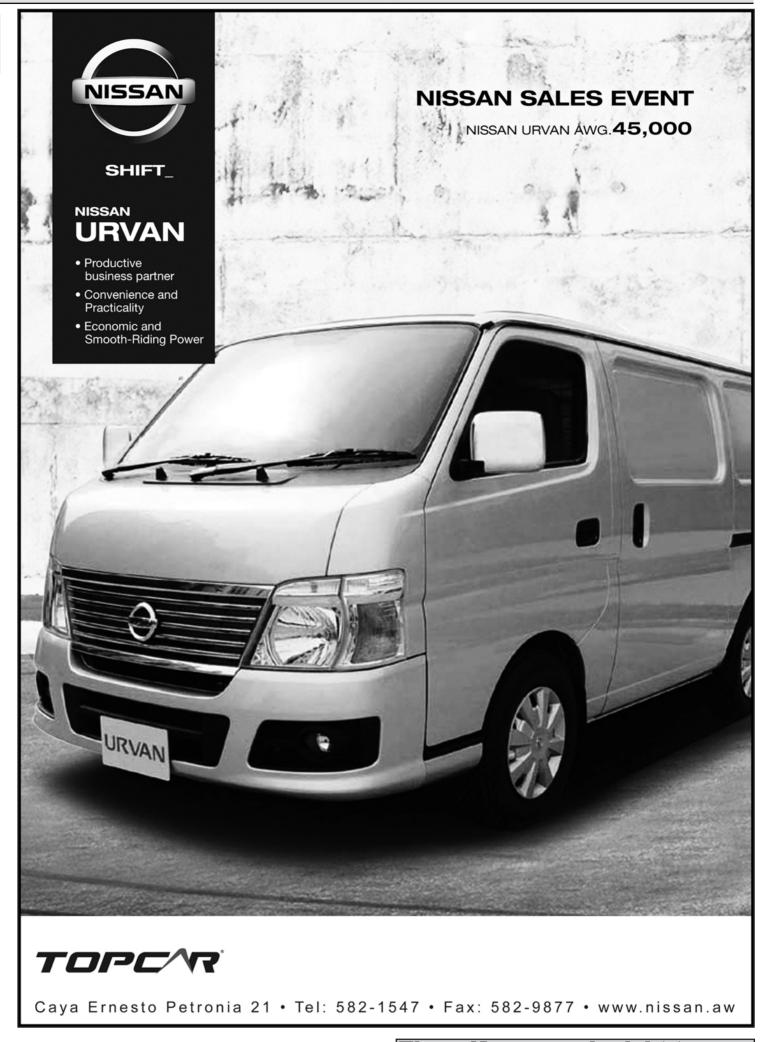
Rebels hit back by downing a regime helicopter gunship in Damascus province and seizing an army checkpoint outside the eastern city of Deir Ezzor, killing at least 12 soldiers, said the Observatory.

The Observatory reported eight civilians and one rebel killed in Homs city and province, updating its Friday death toll to 95 nationwide --37 soldiers, 35 civilians and 23 rebel fighters.

The uprising, which began in March 2011 with pro-reform protests that were brutally crushed, has since turned into a civil war pitting mainly Sunni rebels against President Bashar al-Assad's minority Alawite-dominated regime.

Activists say more than 31,000 people have died in the conflict.

The world community has expressed fear the war could spill over into other countries in the region, exacerbated by exchanges of shelling between Syria and Turkey on Wednesday and Thursday.



Five condemned to death for India 'honour' killing

members of a family in India were sentenced to death on Friday for the torture and "brutal" murder of a young couple from Delhi in a socalled "honour killing" two years ago.

The parents, uncle, aunt and brother of Asha, a 19year-old woman killed along with her boyfriend Yogesh in

hang by additional sessions court judge Ramesh Kumar.

Yogesh, a taxi driver, wanted to marry Asha, the daughter of a vegetable vendor, but the girl's family was against the alliance because the boy belonged to a lower caste.

India has seen an upsurge in such killings, which mainly involve young cou-

NEW DELHI (AFP) - Five 2010, were all condemned to ples who marry outside their caste or against their relatives' wishes and are murdered to protect what is seen as the family's reputation and pride.

Autopsy reports revealed that the young couple had been tied with ropes, beaten with metal pipes and electrocuted, local media reports

Three Kenyans win right to sue **Britain for colonial 'abuses'**

LONDON (AFP) -Supporters of the Kenyans wept when they heard the judgement, although the claimants themselves were not in court. In the Kenyan capital Nairobi, around 150 Mau Mau veterans gathered at the country's Human Rights Commission, singing and shouting as the news broke. Some of the now frail and elderly veterans -- men and women -performed a shuffling celebration dance. The British government accepts that British forces tortured detainees but said it was "disappointed" with the judgment. It warned of "potentially significant and far-reaching legal implications" but stressed Britain's ties with Kenya "remain strong and deep."



What Is Breast Cancer?

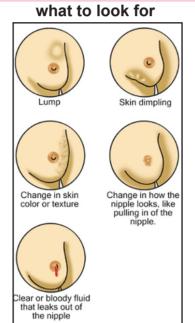
--Breast cancer is an uncontrolled growth of breast cells. To better understand breast cancer, it helps to understand how any cancer can develop.

Cancer occurs as a result of mutations, or abnormal changes, in the genes responsible for regulating the growth of cells and keeping them healthy. The genes are in each cell's nucleus, which acts as the "control room" of each cell. Normally, the cells in our bodies replace themselves through an orderly process of cell growth: healthy new cells take over as old ones die out. But over time, mutations can "turn on" certain genes and "turn off" others in a cell. That

changed cell gains the ability to keep dividing without control or order, producing more cells just like it and forming a

A tumor can be benign (not dangerous to health) or malignant (has the potential to be dangerous). Benign tumors are not considered cancerous: their cells are close to normal in appearance, they grow slowly, and they do not invade nearby tissues or spread to other parts of the body. Malignant tumors are cancerous. Left unchecked, malignant cells eventually can spread beyond the original tumor to other parts of the body.

The term "breast cancer"



refers to a malignant tumor that has developed from cells in the breast. Usually breast cancer either begins in the cells of the lobules, which are the milk-producing glands, or the ducts, the passages that drain milk from the lobules to the nipple. Less commonly, breast cancer can begin in the stromal tissues, which include the fatty and fibrous connective tissues of the breast.

Over time, cancer cells can invade nearby healthy breast tissue and make their way into the underarm lymph nodes,

small organs that filter out foreign substances in the body. If cancer cells get into the lymph nodes, they then have a pathway into other parts of the body. The breast cancer's stage refers to how far the cancer cells have spread beyond the original tumor (see Stages of Breast Cancer table for more information).

Breast cancer is always caused by a genetic abnormality (a

October is
Breast
Cancer
Awareness
Month





Breast self-exam: Manual inspection (reclining)

With fingertips close together, gently probe each breast in one of





these three patterns

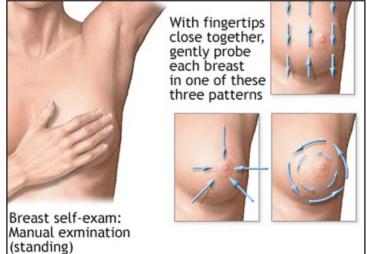
"mistake" in the genetic material). However, only 5-10% of cancers are due to an abnormality inherited from your mother or father. About 90% of breast cancers are due to genetic abnormalities that happen as a result of the aging process and the "wear and tear" of life in general.

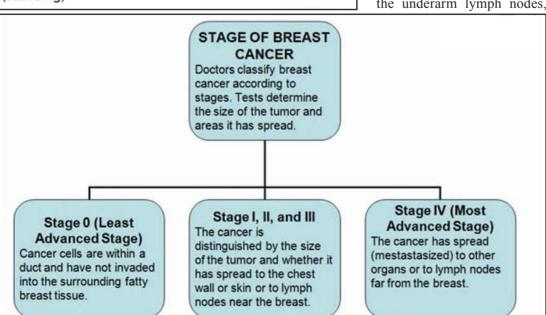
There are steps every person can take to help the body stay as healthy as possible and lower risk of breast cancer or a breast cancer recurrence

(such as maintaining a healthy weight, not smoking, limiting alcohol, and exercising regularly). Learn what you can do to manage breast cancer risk factors.

Always remember, breast cancer is never anyone's fault. Feeling guilty, or telling yourself that breast cancer happened because of something you or anyone else did, is not productive.

(Breastcancer.org)





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Sci-Tech

Contaminated drug linked to deadly US meningitis outbreak

CHICAGO (AFP) - A contaminated drug has been linked to a deadly outbreak of meningitis that has claimed the lives of at least five people and sickened 34 others in six US states, health officials said.

Public health officials were contacting patients in 23 states who received the potentially contaminated steroid injection -- typically for back pain -- and urging them to be tested for the rare fungal infection.

The hardest-hit state was Tennessee, where health officials said Friday the number of cases had risen to 29, including five deaths.

Due to the long incubation period, health officials were urging patients who had received the injection as far back as July 1 to contact their doctors for testing.

Fungal meningitis -- which inflames the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord -- is a rare infection which often goes undetected until it's too late because its flu-like symptoms can be

mild at first.

Early detection and treatment -- which requires a hospital stay to administer intravenous anti-fungal medications -- can prevent the infection from causing permanent damage.

An initial investigation found that the Tennessee clinicians who administered the contaminated drug "had no way of knowing" there was anything wrong with it and found "no lapses" in their standards, Dreyzehner said.

"The evidence indicates this is a product issue," he told reporters.

The Food and Drug Administration said it has detected a fungal contaminant in a sealed vial of the drug produced by the New England Compounding Center.

While further testing is required to confirm it was the source of the outbreak, the company has issued a recall of all of its products and shut down all operations.



AMSTERDAM- (AFP): (L-R) Dutch Princess Maxima, Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser from Qatar and Shell CEO Peter Voser take part in a visit to the Shell Technology Centre in Amsterdam, on October 4, 2012. The Shell Technology Centre Amsterdam (STCA) employs 1,300 who work on developing new technologies and improving existing ones to help find solutions for the world's energy challenges.





Blogger Yoani Sanchez arrested in Cuba



HAVANA (AFP) - Prominent dissident blogger Yoani Sanchez has been arrested in eastern Cuba, a website with close ties to the Havana government reported on Friday.

"The pro-American blogger Yoani Sanchez was arrested today in the city of Bayamo, where she had traveled with the intention of creating a provocation and a media show" at the trial of Spanish activist Angel Carromero, according to the well-sourced website bis it ehttp://www.yohandry.com.

Sanchez, 37, began commenting on daily life in Cuba on her Generacion Y blog in 2007, but ran afoul of the regime for criticizing Fidel and Raul Castro.

The prize-winning activist and writer was in Bayamo to attend Friday's trial of the Spaniard, who is accused of vehicular manslaughter in the death of a prominent dissident, Oswaldo Paya, who was killed in an auto accident on July 22.

Her arrest was reported after Cuban authorities on Thursday detained 22 other dissidents, including leading dissident Guillermo Farinas, in the city of Santa Clara, according to members of his family and the opposition. Last week, Sanchez filed a complaint against Cuba with

the Inter-American Human Rights Commission for repeatedly refusing her permission to leave the country, according to her attorney, who said she has been unable to leave Cuba since 2007 although she has requested permission to do so on some 20 occasions.

Her lawyers said Sanchez presented evidence to the commission that she and her husband had been harassed by the Cuban authorities.



RUSSIAN FEDERATION - (AFP): A handout photo provided on October 5, 2012, by International Mammoth Committee and taken on September 25, 2012, shows researchers posing near the remains of mammoth found a few kilometers away from the Sopkarga polar station in the Taimyr Peninsula, Russia's northernmost region. An 11 year-old boy in Russia's far north has uncovered a nearly intact woolly mammoth, complete with fur, bones, flesh, and layers of fat, the St. Petersburg Zoological Museum director, Alexei Tikhonov, told AFP today.

PICKLES









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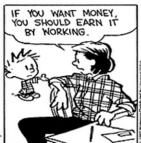






CALVIN and HOBBES











10.

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Finance

IMF slashes global growth forecast: report



BERLIN (AFP) - The International Monetary Fund has cut its global growth forecasts for this year and 2013 and called on politicians in the eurozone and the US to take "decisive" steps to restore confidence, a German newspaper said Friday.

Citing excerpts from the IMF's World Economic Outlook to be released early next week, the Handelsblatt business daily said that the Washington-based body predicted world economic growth of 3.3 percent in 2012 and 3.6 percent in 2013.

In July, the IMF issued forecasts of 3.5 percent and 3.9 percent, respectively.

The German-language paper quoted the report as saying that the "further cooling of growth in the world economy this year and next

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

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goes along with a clear increase in downward risks."

The forecast depends in particular on "whether decisive political steps are taken in the eurozone and the US to stabilise confidence," the paper quoted the report as saying.

The IMF forecasts a shrinking of the eurozone economy of 0.4 percent this year and a small positive growth of 0.2 percent in 2013.

The IMF cut its forecast for China to 8.2 percent, for India to six percent and for Brazil to four percent, according to Handelsblatt.

The fund also saw a "further drop in inflation" given the sluggish global economic output and recommended additional cuts in interest rates to stimulate activity.

Three leading European economic institutes have estimated meanwhile that the eurozone economy will remain in recession until the end of this year.

The French institute INSEE and its German and Italian counterparts IFO and ISTAT forecast a contraction in business activity of 0.2 percent in the third quarter, they said in a joint statement.

That is the same rate of decline as in the second quarter of the year.

A further contraction of 0.1 percent in the last three months would be followed by zero growth in the first quarter of 2013, the institutes said.

Eurozone domestic demand is being undermined by economic uncertainty and the impact of budget consolidation across the 17-nation bloc, the three institutes added.

Profit-taking sends oil price lower, despite strong US data

NEW YORK (AFP) - World oil prices slid on Friday despite upbeat jobs data in the United States, as the market was dogged by worries over weak demand, dealers said.

New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) or light sweet crude for November delivery, dipped \$1.83 to \$89.88 a barrel.

Brent North Sea crude for November retreated 56 cents to \$112.08 a barrel in late trade in London.

The market fell as many traders cashed in some of their bumper gains from the previous day, when prices rebounded by up to \$4 a barrel. Meanwhile the upbeat payrolls report in the United States -- the world's largest oil consumer -- failed to dispel energy demand concerns.

"Despite the strong rise in equity markets and the weakness of the dollar, oil prices have drifted back from yesterday's highs," said CMC Markets analyst Michael Hewson.

"Growth concerns remain the major concern and one average US jobs report cannot change the fact that demand looks weak."

Revisions to previous months' data released Friday gave a sharply better picture of the US jobs situation, helping push the unemployment rate down to 7.8 percent.

Êven with that bullish news, the US oil market slipped.



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US stocks fall flat after good jobs, consumer data

NEW YORK (AFP) - US stocks fell flat in late trade Friday shrugging off early gains on the back of a strong September jobs report and later data showing a pickup in consumer credit-based spending.

Early on the Dow and the S&P indices hit five-year highs before giving up gains

in the last hour of trade.

At the closing bell the blue-chip Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 34.79 points (0.26 percent) at 13,610.15.

The broad-based S&P 500 slipped 0.48 (0.03 percent) at 1,460.92, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite lost 13.27 (0.42 percent) to 3,136.19.

Aviation regulator puts India's Kingfisher on notice

MUMBAI

(AFP) - India's civil aviation regulator on Friday issued a notice to cash-strapped Kingfisher Airlines, which has grounded its fleet since Monday, asking why its licence should not be cancelled.

A crippling strike by employees who have not received salaries for seven months has forced the airline, which is teetering on the brink of financial collapse, to

cancel all its flights for at least another week.

The debt-laden carrier has 15 days to respond to the notice, the regulator said, saying Kingfisher must be able to offer a "safe, efficient and reliable service" or face the possibility of losing its flying permit.

The notice from the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) late on Friday has fuelled new doubts about the future of the airline, owned by billionaire liquor tycoon Vijay Mallya.

In the notice, DGCA chief Arun Mishra pulled up King-fisher for not adhering to its flight schedule and "abruptly (cancelling) its flights time and again during the last 10 months", causing inconvenience to passengers.

Kingfisher spokesman Prakash Mirpuri said that the airline would send a "detailed response" to the regulator "well in time".

Mexico discovers new deepwater oil deposits

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Mexico has discovered new deepwater oil deposits with estimated reserves of 125 million barrels, President Felipe Calderon announced Friday.

Dubbed Supremus 1, the latest find by state-owned energy company Pemex and was at a depth of about 2,900 meters (9,514 feet) in the Gulf of Mexico and confirmed the potential of what has been called the "Lost Belt" basin.

On August 29, Calderon announced the discovery of a first well -- Trion 1 -- in the same zone, with reserves there estimated at between 250 and 400 million barrels.

Exploration of this zone, situated 180 kilometers (112 miles) off the Mexican coast and 39 kilometers south of

the maritime border with the United States, began in April with latest-generation platforms.

The second find is situated off the coast of Tamaulipas state in northeast Mexico.

According to Calderon, these discoveries should allow Mexico to increase its annual oil production by up to a third.



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Huge Venezuela housing shortage an election worry

CARACAS (AFP) - Inside the garage of a Caracas shopping center, hundreds of families live in cubicle-like rooms, waiting for President Hugo Chavez to deliver on his promise to give every Venezuelan "dignified" housing.

"We often despair, but we must wait," said Eusebio Medina, 49, who was selling candy outside the garage, which was seized by the government to house people left homeless by landslides and floods in 2010.

Despite his long wait for a new home, Medina knew whom he would vote for in the country's presidential election on Sunday.

"For the president, of course," he said as a pick-up truck passed by with loud-speakers urging people to attend Chavez's final election



rally in Caracas.

Venezuela's massive housing shortage has become a

central issue ahead of Sunday's presidential election, with opposition candidate Henrique Capriles accusing the leftist leader at every turn of falling short on his pledge.

The president counters that his rival will undo his popular social missions, including the home construction project and other programs, such as free health care for the poor and state-run grocery stores.

Chavez, seeking a new sixyear term after almost 14 years in power, has pledged to build three million new homes by 2019 if he wins the election in this country of 29 million people.

"Housing is at stake on October 7," Chavez said at a campaign rally on Tuesday. "When the next government period ends in 2019, not one Venezuelan family must be without dignified housing."

With millions of people living in slums and more left homeless by natural disasters over the years, the government has estimated a shortage of 2.7 million houses.

The government says that the Great Housing Mission of Venezuela has handed the keys to around 200,000 homes since its launch in April 2011.

But human rights group Provea charges the government figures are wrong.

"It is lower than what the government has publicly declared," Provea coordinator Marino Alvarado told AFP. "It is not correct that they've built 200,000 homes."

Provea conducted an investigation into the mission and found that just 44,954 homes had been built as of May 2012. A lack of information and inconsistent figures announced by ministers made the task difficult, it said.

Critics also say that some of the homes are full of defects because they were built in a rush.

Ahead of the election campaign, the official government channel began broadcasting a weekly program called "House Thursday," a show during which a lucky family is shown entering their new

home and thanking Chavez.

Chavez is facing his biggest challenge since winning his first presidential election in 1998, with the latest opinion poll showing Capriles closing the gap to 10 points and other surveys showing a dead heat.

But support for the president remains strong among the country's poor.

"We are all Chavistas here," said Aura Teran, 39, who has lived in the Caracas shopping center garage for almost two years. "He helps the country with his missions. With Capriles, we would have to start things all over again."

Up a hill in another part of the capital, 1,200 more refugees occupy an unfinished building where posters of their "comandante," Chavez, hang on the doors of several white plastic cubicles.



The prestigious ARISE magazine débuted last month during the Mercedez Benz Fashion Week in New York. Based in the UK capital's bustling center, Arise calls itself Africa's first and foremost global style and culture magazine. Arise's vision is to highlighting African achievement through fashion, music, culture and politics. Penny McDonald, international managing director at Arise, says there was a gap in the market for a quality offering that would showcase the wide-ranging talents of African designers while breaking stereotypes about the continent's culture. The large-format magazine, which was initially published every four months, was determined to be competitive amongst other fashion heavy-hitters right from the start.



Cool Casino...where those in the know go to play!



The great perks of gaming at Cool Casino in the Palm Beach has created a dedicated clientele; ask them what they like about the cozy casino, and they don't know where to start! The free slot tournaments every Sunday? Major pay-offs in their weekly Blackjack tournaments every Tuesday and Friday? Ladies' night every Wednesday with entertainment from great local bands? Or perhaps just the terrific benefits of being "One Cool Member" which earns players bonus points towards additional activities, free dinners, day passes at the Riu Resort, credit for play, or best of all: hard, cool cash! The casino opens daily at 10:00 AM and on Saturdays and Sundays, all are greeted with an early

morning "Kaffie Klatch" and triple points when using their membership cards.

Cool Casino is a great place to learn to understand



s u c h table games as Craps and Roulette, as they offer free instructions and minimums for beginners with which anyone can have fun and feel very comfortable. High-stakes tables and a major weekly

blackjack tournament will keep veteran high-rollers happy, as well as periodic special events that attract an international crowd; stop by and check their schedule.

> Add to all this free drinks while testing the slots or trying your hand at the

tables, and the opportunity to enjoy exclusive pay-per-view major sporting events at one of their dozens of plasma screens, and you can understand why loyal patrons find Cool

Casino THE fun place to play. Slot machines are open from 10:00 AM until 4:00 AM daily, and gaming tables open at 5:00 PM; ask for their schedule of special events and bonuses, as there are so many choose from, but every day offers something to get the adrenaline flowing!



Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at **Palm Beach Plaza**



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef



Keshi Yena with plaintains, vegetables and pica

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varella Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"-"Grandma's Beef Steak, along with local delicaof melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

.Seafood main courses for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargainpriced to boot!

The Oueen's is located on Stew," and their Arawak the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cies like Keshi Yena -"Full cozy corner at the front of the Cheese." This is a tasty, filling mall. If you have a mind to try stew of chicken, with other in- the real deal in Aruban food, gredients that are handy that without a doubt, this is the day, all incased in a thick skin way to truly eat like a local. They are open from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the Not overly spicy, it lends that mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

SPORTS

Cricket: Windies blow away Australia to reach T20 final



COLOMBO (AFP) - Chris Gayle smashed an unbeaten 75 off 41 balls as the West Indies stormed into the World Twenty20 final with a record 74-run demolition of Australia in Colombo on Friday.

The left-hander pounded six sixes and five fours as the Windies piled up the tournament's highest total of 205-4 after electing to bat on what was regarded as a slow pitch unsuited to aggressive batting.

The Australians found the huge target too hot to handle and folded up for 131 in 16.4 overs at the Premadasa stadium in front of 28,000 awestruck spectators still reeling from the West Indies innings.

Skipper George Bailey played a lone hand for the Aussies, making 63 off 29 balls with four sixes and six boundaries after adding 68 for the seventh wicket with Pat Cummins.

Darren Sammy's men take on hosts Sri Lanka in Sunday's final with both sides looking for their first World Twenty20 title

REMEMBER to



The biggest Twenty20 win for the West Indies, surpassing their 70-run victory over Ireland in 2010, was celebrated by the entire team performing an energetic version of global hit "Gangnam Style" in the middle

Bailey admitted Australia were outplayed and the West Indies deserved to be in the final.

"Were we helpless? Probably Chris Gayle can do that to you," the Australian captain said. "But the fact is that we just got outplayed.

"There are no excuses. The best team absolutely won the game tonight. There is a gap between your best and worst cricket, and we did not play good cricket at all."

Gayle, who lost his opening partner Johnson Charles in the third over, plodded for nine balls to make four before swinging Shane Watson for a six over long-off.

That opened the floodgates for an onslaught as Marlon

Samuels and Gayle smashed left-arm spinner Xavier Doherty for a six each in one over and Brad Hogg was greeted into the attack with another six from Samuels.

Samuels contributed 26 in a second-wicket stand of 41 with Gayle when he was bowled by Cummins attempting another big hit.

Gayle, who faced just 18 balls in the first 10 overs, still managed to bring up his half-century off 29 deliveries with the help of four sixes and three boundaries.

All-rounder Dwayne Bravo (37) helped Gayle add 83 for the third wicket from just 51 deliveries to propel the innings at a brisk pace.

Kieron Pollard hit 38 off 15 balls as the West Indies plundered 55 runs in the final three overs, including 25 off the last six deliveries by Doherty.

Doherty was the most expensive Australian bowler with 1-48 from three overs, while Watson went for 35 runs in four unsuccessful overs.

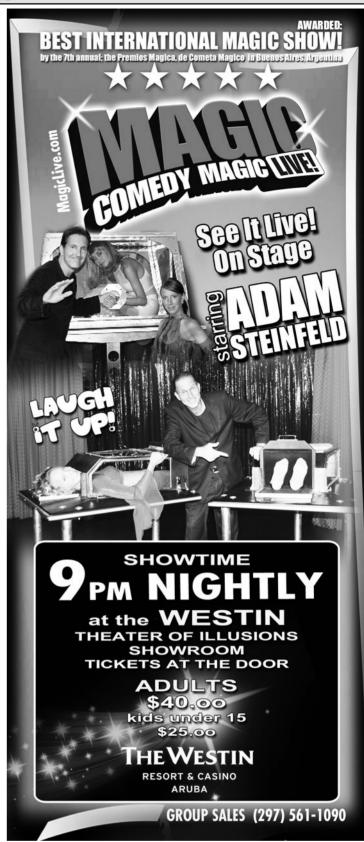
Australia never recovered after opener David Warner was bowled by spinner Samuel Badree with the sixth delivery and crashed to 43-6 by the eighth over.

Badree took two of those wickets and seamer Ravi Rampaul chipped in by removing Cameron White and the recalled David Hussey in the pace of three balls.

Pollard dismissed Bailey and Cummins off successive deliveries in the 14th over to end Australia's resistance.



MADRID (AFP) - Spain on Friday called up 24-year-old Javi Martinez to stand in for injured defender Gerard Pique in their upcoming World Cup qualifying matches against France and Belarus. Coach Vicente del Bosque also left Chelsea star forward Juan Mata out of the squad, which includes his club teammate Fernando Torres and Barcelona's David Villa among its strike force. Pique injured his left foot during Barcelona's 3-2 victory over Spartak Moscow in the Champions League on September 19. He has not ruled out returning to action in Sunday's league clash against Madrid, but Del Bosque left him out of the national squad for the games against Belarus in Minsk on October 12 and France in Madrid on October 16.





NEW DELHI (AFP) - Controversial former Pakistani fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar said on Friday the cricketers are being tempted into fixing matches because they are underpaid by their board. Three Pakistani stars -- Test captain Salman Butt and pacemen Mohammad Aamer and Mohammad Asif -- were jailed last year after being found guilty of spot-fixing during the 2010 Lord's Test against England. It was the first time international cricketers were handed prison sentences, a scandal described by then-ICC chief executive Haroon Lorgat as the worst corruption case since the Hansie Cronje episode. Akhtar, whose career was marked by allegations of drug abuse and ball-tampering, bagged 178 wickets in 46 Tests and 247 in 163 one-day internationals between 1997 and 2011.



Swimming: Greek swimmer wins compensation for Olympic ban

ATHENS (AFP) - The Greek Swimming Federation have been ordered to pay 277,000 euros to 100m freestyle swimmer Tonia Machaira for wrongfully excluding her from the Athens 2004 Olympics on the grounds she had failed a drugs test.

Machaira filed a suit for one million euros eight years ago after she was banned from participating in her home Olympics by the federation.

An Athens court decided on Friday to award the swimmer just over one-fourth of the amount she requested, deciding on 150,000 euros plus interest reaching 277,000 euros.

"The bitterness remains the same," Machaira told NovaSport FM radio. "I wanted to participate in my third and final Olympics after a 20-year career but was denied this. I was always clean."

International drug testing organization WADA confirmed that Machaira had not failed the anti-doping test, as suspected by the Greek federation.

Machaira said that after the ban she walked through the streets of her native island Crete and everyone would look at her and make comments.

"For four months I did not even leave my house. The federation even asked me to return my national team uniform. It was a disgrace," she added.

Her lawyer Giannis Marakakis said: "The federation realized the magnitude of the blunder and tried to convince the sporting public that she was indeed doped. This was criminal behaviour which has remained unpunished."

Marathon: Shobukhova to seek fourth Chicago title **in a row**



CHICAGO (AFP) - Russia's Liliya Shobukhova will attempt to win an unprecedented fourth consecutive Chicago Marathon women's title in Sunday's 35th running of the event.

Shobukhova, unbeaten in three Chicago starts, was unable to finish the London Olympic marathon in August due to stomach cramps but will be among the elite favorites in a field of 45,000 runners that will compete Sunday morning.

"It was heartbreaking to withdraw from the Olympic Marathon after I had trained so hard and my preparation had gone so well," Shobukhova said.

Shobukhova ran the thirdfastest time in history last year to win in 2 hours 18 mins 20 secs. "There's no place that I feel more comfortable than when I am competing in Chicago," she said.

The Russian's rivals will include Kenya's Lucy Kabuu, who owns a personal best of 2:19:34, and Ethiopians Ejegayehu Dibaba, last year's runner-up in 2:22:09, and Weknesh Kidane, the 2003 world runner-up.

On the men's side, Kenya's Wesley Korir, last year's Chicago runner-up and this year's Boston Marathon champion, will be a favorite.

Ethiopian Tsegaye Kebede, third in the 2008 Olympic marathon, and Kenya's Levy Matebo, whose 2:05:16 from last year in Frankfurt is the fastest time in the field, are also expected to contend for the men's title.

Dinamo Zagreb to make one fan a kuna millionaire



ZAGREB (AFP) - In a bid to fill empty stands players for Croatian champions Dinamo Zagreb pooled to reward one fan who will attend the Champions League match against French side Paris Saint Germain with one million kunas (134,000 euros, \$174,000). The idea was launched by young midfielder Mateo Kovacic who posted a video 'One Million for a Full Stadium' where he explains the idea to his teammates, on his Facebook page. Dinamo Zagreb's first match against FC Porto at home, which they lost 2-0, was attended by only a few thousand people. Local media blamed the poor attendance on expensive tickets but also a fan boycott of the club's leadership. The Maksimir stadium can accommodate some 40,000 people. After two matches Dinamo Zagreb are at the bottom of their Champions League Group A with 0 points. They face PSG on October 24.

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NFL: Rams derail previously 2012 MLB unbeaten Cardinals



Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Andre Roberts (12) is tackled by St. Louis Rams cornerback Cortland Finnegan (31

ST. LOUIS (AFP) - Quarterback Sam Bradford threw two touchdown passes and got plenty of support from his defense as the St. Louis Rams knocked off the previously undefeated Arizona Cardinals 17-3 Thursday.

Bradford completed just seven-of-21 passes for 141 vards with an interception for the Rams, who have won their last two National Football League games to push their record over the .500 mark for the first time in almost six years.

Robert Quinn recorded three sacks to lead a stifling St. Louis defence that racked up nine sacks of Cardinals quarterback Kevin Kolb. James Laurinaitis, Cortland Finnegan, Jo-Lonn Dunbar, Bradley Fletcher, Chris Long and Jermell Cudjo had one sack each for the Rams.

Runningback Steven Jackson rushed for 76 yards on 18

carries, while Chris Givens and Lance Kendricks each caught a touchdown for St. Louis.

Kolb completed 28-of-50 passes for 289 yards for Arizona, who suffered their first loss of the season after four straight wins.

Arizona receiver Larry Fitzgerald had a game-high eight catches for 92 yards.

In key games this weekend, New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees needs just one more touchdown pass to surpass hall of famer Johnny Unitas and set an NFL record with 48 consecutive games with at least one touchdown pass.

Three-time most valuable player Unitas finished his career with 47. The 0-4 Saints are hosting San Diego.

The Pittsburgh Steelers will be well rested when they host the Philadelphia Eagles as the Steelers are coming off a bye week. They will also have safety Troy Polamalu, linebacker James Harrison and runningback Rashard Mendenhall returning to the lineup.

Peyton Manning's Denver Broncos travel to New England to face quarterback Tom Brady and the Patriots. The two superstar quarterbacks have met 12 times previously with Brady winning eight.

This is just the second time in league history the two starting quarterbacks have more than 125 career regular season victories. Manning has 143 while Brady has 126.

On Monday night, the undefeated Houston Texans travel to the New York Jets who will be without one of their big offensive weapons.

Wide receiver Santonio Holmes will miss the rest of the season with a foot injury so the Jets went out and signed Jason Hill to replace him.



Detroit Tigers' Miguel Cabrera (24) flies out to centerfield at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Oct. 3, 2012....

LOS ANGELES (AFP) -Today, newly-crowned Triple Crown winner Miguel Cabrera and his Detroit Tigers will take on American League West champion Oakland Athletics in a best-of-five division series.

The A's, who were 13 games back of first place a week before the all-star break, rallied from a four-run deficit Wednesday to rout Texas 12-5 on the final day of the regular season. The loss dropped the Rangers into the wild card slot.

Matt Cain and the San Francisco Giants will host Cincinnati who will start pitcher Johnny Cueto in the opening game of their National League division series.

Like the A's, the New York Yankees put an emphatic finish on their regular season by thumping rival Boston Red Sox 14-2 on Wednesday.

New York claimed the American League East title and will now face either Baltimore or Texas in the first game of their series on Sun-

The Washington Nationals earned home field advantage throughout the post-season by beating Philadelphia 5-1 on Wednesday. Gio Gonzalez, who won 21 games this season, will start for the Nationals on Sunday against either St. Louis or Atlanta.

A year ago St. Louis surpassed Atlanta on the final night of the season, completing a 23-9 run after August 25 while the Braves went 10-20 in that span.

"I'm glad we're playing them," Braves' catcher Brian McCann said. "Last year we just let it slip away. It wasn't necessarily they took it from us. We felt like we let it slip away, and we kind of want to redeem ourselves."

The Cardinals went on to win the World Series after squeaking into the playoffs as the NL wild card.

"Defending champs," said Medlen. "It's almost like it's supposed to happen, for us to play against them. They've got (Kyle) Lohse going and he's a tough guy to get some runs off of.

"And that lineup is pretty good, too. I'm just going to approach it the same as every other start.

"I've had 11, 12 starts this year, and they really don't matter anymore. It's a game seven thing. Just go out and don't talk, you just go do," Medlen said.